Integrated Steel plants and pig-iron manufacturers import low ash coking coal or metallurgical coke which is not available indigenously. Certain sponge iron plants, power plants and cement plants particularly located near coastal regions also import non-coking coal on cost considerations, as well as due to inadequate availability of such coals indigenously.

Discouraging Non-Ferrous metal companies from taking up captive mining

2433. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to discourage companies providing non-ferrous metals from taking up captive mining;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to undertake fiscal reform in the interest of developing mineral industries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures adopted by Government to sort out the resistance from local villagers and NGO's who are against reckless mining?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Government has not specified any policy to discourage companies from taking up capitave mining as an economic decision of the company concerned. However, the matter was discussed in the recently held Tripartite meeting of the Central Government, State Government and the Investors in the mining sector, and a view has been expressed that mining needs to be recognised as a specialised activity and an industry in its own right without any requirement to be a captive source of raw material only to an identified end user.

(c) and (d) The Department of Mines had set up a Multi-Disciplinary Committee to examine the taxation regime for mineral sector and to suggest appropriate tax structure conducive to rapid

development of the mineral sector. Its recommendations have been examined and accepted by the Department of Mines and sent to Ministry of Finance for consideration.

(c) Mining operations are undetaken in accordance with the duly approved mining plan by Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM)/ State Governments. If the mining operations are not carried out in accordance with the mining plan, the intimation of which may come from local villagers and NGOs and may be detected at the time of inspection by IBM, the Regional Controller of Mines or the authorised officer may order suspension of all or any of the mining operations and permit continuance of only such operations as may be necessary to restore the conditions in the mine as envisaged under the said mining plan.

Introduction of new Marketing Policy by CIL

2434. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coal India Ltd. has introduced new marketing policy, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether non-core sector has complained against new policy as discriminatory towards them;

(c) if so, the views of non-core sector towards this policy, the reaction of Government thereto;

(d) whether Government are considering to review the marketing policy; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) As a sequel to total deregulation of price and distribution of coal with effect from 1st January 2000, Coal India Limited (CIL) has decided, in June 2001, to authorise the subsidiary companies to evolve their respective policies of coal sales to the non-core sector without the condition of linkage/sponsorship.

(b) Certain representations had been received from non-core sector

— 4942RS F—2-8